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**PATENT APPLICATION
968784**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
Hiroyuki TERATANI, et al.
Appln. No.: 10/070,164
Confirmation No.: 9195
Filed: May 13, 2002
For: PNEUMATIC TIRE

Group Art Unit: 1733
Examiner: Justin R. Fischer

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned attorney hereby states that, based upon information and belief, each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 24, 2004



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 AND 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified), which the Examiner may deem material to the patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of a Supplementary Partial European Search Report dated May 27, 2004, in connection with a corresponding foreign application (EP 01 94 5807).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of

Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier) and, therefore, Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is also attached.

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Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Gruskin
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Date: August 24, 2004

Substitute for Form PTO-1449 A & B

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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| Application Number | 10/070,164 |
| Confirmation Number | 9195 |
| Filing Date | May 13, 2002 |
| First Named Inventor | Hiroyuki TERATANI |
| Art Unit | 1733 |
| Examiner Name | Justin R. Fischer |
| Attorney Docket Number | Q68784 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | |
| | AA | | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Translation ⁶ |
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| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | |
| | AI | EP | 0 963 863 | A2 | 12/15/1999 | Bridgestone Corp. | |
| | AJ | EP | 0 924 109 | A2 | 06/23/1999 | Bridgestone Corp. | |
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NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
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Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.